

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action currently outstanding with respect to the above-identified application.

By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1 and 10 have been canceled, without prejudice; Claims 2, 4, and 5 have been amended to change their respective dependencies from Claim 1 to Claim 6; and New Claims 13-16 have been added which are similar to Claim 11 or Claim 12 but dependent on one of Claims 2, 4, 5, and 8. Accordingly, upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 2 and 4- 9 and 11 - 16 as hereinabove amended will constitute the claims under active prosecution in the above-identified application.

As required by the Rules, the foregoing Amendment states the current status of all of the claims filed in this application, and also shows the particulars of the present amendments.

In particular, in the currently outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has:

1. Acknowledged Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 USC 119(a)-(d) or (f), and confirmed the receipt by the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the required certified copy of the priority document (see previous Official Action);
2. Indicated that the drawings as originally filed are accepted (see previous Official Action);
3. Rejected Claims 1, 5 and 10 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Fukunaga et al reference (US Patent No. 5,706,064);
4. Rejected Claims 2-4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Fukunaga, et al reference in view of the Akiyama, et al. reference (US Patent No. 5,986,724); and
5. Indicated the Claims 6-9 and 11-12 are allowed.

By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1 and 10, without prejudice. Claims 2, 4 and 5 have been amended in a manner that changes their respective dependencies from cancelled Claim 1 to allowed Claim 6. Further, New Claims 13 – 16 have been added which are the same as allowed Claim 11 but respectively dependent upon Claims 2, 4, 5, and 8.

Applicants respectfully submit that since Claims 6-9 and 11-12 have been allowed, rejected Claims 1 and 10 have been cancelled, without prejudice, and Claims 2, 4 and 5 have been amended so as to be dependent upon an allowable base claim, Claims 2 and 4 – 9 and 11-12 are now in condition for allowance. Further, since New Claims 13 – 16 state the subject matter of Claim 11 in dependent form respectively from allowable Claims 2, 4, 5, and 8, New Claims 13 – 16 also are now in condition for allowance.

For each and all of the foregoing reason and in light of the foregoing amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2, 4 - 9 and 11 - 16 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration of this application and the allowance thereof with all of the presently pending claims in response to this communication are respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that no further fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if for any reason a further fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105** as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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